

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CHURCH OF ST. JOACHIM IN TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, ON THEIR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joachim's Roman Catholic Church in Trenton, New Jersey, as they celebrate their Centennial. At the turn of the 20th Century, millions of immigrants from Italy journeyed to the United States in the hopes of starting a new life. Thousands of these immigrants—who later become proud Italian-Americans—settled in Trenton, New Jersey.

These immigrants found jobs in the city's once thriving steel mills, rubber factories, and pottery factories. But life was about much more than work. These newcomers sought comfort in their Italian culture, kinship with their fellow immigrants, and solace and guidance in their Roman Catholic faith.

In 1901, 100 years ago, because of cultural differences and language barriers, Rev. James A. McFaul, Bishop of Trenton, established St. Joachim's Parish to accommodate the spiritual needs of the city's newest Catholics. Bishop McFaul gave the task of establishing this new parish to Rev. Aloysius Pozzi, an Italian Priest who at the time had been in the United States for less than five years.

This new Parish had a meager physical beginning. There was no church, and Masses were held in Centennial Hall on Hudson and Genesee Streets. But while lacking in physical materials, this new Parish was rich in members and spirit. In fact, the first Mass of St. Joachim's was offered for 1,500 people.

Plans to build their own church were quickly developed and on August 15, 1903, the cornerstone of St. Joachim's Church was laid during festivities attended by church and civic leaders, as well as thousands of Italian-American immigrants. But Rev. Pozzi, who later became a Monsignor, did not rest once the church was built; instead he worked tirelessly to establish a new parochial school, which opened in 1909. For 90 years, St. Joachim's School provided area children with a value-filled Catholic education until declining enrollment forced its closure in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years, St. Joachim's has faithfully served its parishioners, ministering and providing services to the community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in congratulating St. Joachim's on their Centennial Celebration and to thank them for all of their contributions to the rich heritage and culture of Trenton, the Capital City of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO ELMER BOYD STAATS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Elmer Boyd Staats, President, Trustee, and Chairman of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation. Mr. Staats will soon end a distinguished career in public service. His dedication spans more than six decades and includes appointments under every U.S. President from Franklin Roosevelt to George W. Bush.

Mr. Staats began his career in public service in 1936, spending a summer as a research assistant for the Kansas Legislative Council. During 1937 and 1938, he was a member of the staff of the Public Administration Service of Chicago. In 1938, Elmer came to Washington, D.C. to be a fellow at the Brookings Institute. A year later he joined the staff of the Bureau of the Budget, thus beginning a remarkable Federal service career.

As a member of the Bureau's Division of Administrative Management and later of the War Agencies Section, Elmer worked with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman in converting the U.S. economy to war time production and back to peace time again. Later, he became Assistant Bureau Director for Legislative Reference, working with Truman White House staff to help coordinate the President's legislative programs. Mr. Staats then became the Bureau's Executive Assistant Director then Deputy Director, a position he held until 1953.

Later, Elmer was appointed Executive Director of the Operations Coordinating Board of the National Security Council. He then returned to the Bureau of the Budget, serving as Assistant Director then Deputy Director under Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson.

In 1966, President Johnson appointed Elmer Comptroller General of the United States. He served a full 15-year term and implemented significant changes in the General Accounting Office. Elmer focused on expanding GAO's work and issue areas to serve Congress more effectively. When Elmer Staats took charge of GAO, less than ten percent of the its professional staff's effort toward providing direct assistance to Congress. When he left, GAO was devoting nearly 40 percent of its effort to helping Congress.

During his tenure at GAO, Elmer helped user in many improvements. He helped to implement "Government Auditing Standards," providing standardized methods for governments at all levels to determine the effectiveness of programs. Upon his retirement in 1981 Elmer Staats was called, "a pragmatic of good government."

Elmer's public service did not end with his retirement from Comptroller General, as he soon became President and then Trustee and Chairman of the Harry S Truman Scholarship

Foundation. This Federal agency administers the scholarship program established as the sole Federal memorial to President Truman. Each year the Truman Foundation awards 80 scholarships to outstanding students who wish to undertake a career in public service. This December Elmer Staats will complete his third consecutive six year term as a Foundation Trustee and as its Chairman. Having had the privilege to serve with him as Vice Chairman of the Trustees, I can personally attest to the ways in which this important program has flourished under his leadership.

Elmer has served on numerous commissions, committees, boards, and councils, making each better because of his involvement. He has also been the recipient of many awards, including the Rockefeller Public Service Award and the Presidential Citizens Medal. Elmer received degrees from McPherson College, the University of Kansas and the University of Minnesota and honorary doctorate degrees from eight different schools.

Mr. Speaker, Elmer Staats has been a truly great American, serving the United States for 65 years. I know the Members of the House will join me in thanking him and wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

HONORING AGUSTUS M. DELSIGNORE, HUDSON FALLS ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARD

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Augustus M. DelSignore as the recipient of the Hudson Falls Italian-American Civic Club's First Annual Recognition Award. Through his leadership in the Glens Falls Housing Authority, Mr. DelSignore has proven to be a pillar of strength in not only his community, but a vast area of the North Country as well.

Mr. DelSignore was born and raised in Glens Falls. After graduating from Glens Falls High School, he joined the Air Force during the Korean War. In 1954, he returned to Glens Falls to take over the family business, DelSignore's Hotel and Restaurant. Mr. DelSignore was married to Joan Denton, also of Glens Falls, in 1951. They are the proud parents of three daughters, Susan, Amy, and Wendy, and proud grandparents of three grandsons and two granddaughters, all of who reside in Glens Falls.

Augustus DelSignore has been involved in the development of Public Housing since 1966. In 1970, he was appointed Provisional Projects Manager for the Glens Falls Housing Authority. While in this position, he initiated operations for the fifty-unit Larose Gardens Apartments in Glens Falls. Upon receiving the highest score on the New York State Civil Service exam for Projects Manager in 1972,

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